

Wrestling has perfect weekend

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon wrestling team had a perfect weekend, with the men earning dual victories over Warner Pacific Friday, 41-9, and over Southwest Oregon Community College Saturday, 26-18, while the women topped Warner Pacific Friday by a score of 24-9.

The men's team won six of the first seven matches, and used a pair of forfeit wins, to build a 41-3 lead. Mhar Caballa (125 pounds) opened with a 19-13 decision over Connor Finch, and Blake McNall (133) scored a 16-0 technical fall over Lucas Higgenbotham.

Jared Brant (149) got on the board with an 8-2 decision over Aaron Vang before EOU rattled off three straight pins: Keegan Mulhill (157) over Chas Peterson, Jacob Dupuis (165) over Wyatt Kesler, and Drake Randall (174) over Jonathan Moskowitiz.

Saturday, EOU had a much closer match against SWOCC, but built a big lead early to hold on. Caballa (125) edged Joel Avila by a 6-5 decision, and McNall (133) had a 10-0 major decision over Christian Balagso. After two EOU losses and a Mountaineer win by forfeit, Dupuis (165) pinned

Ryan Beck, and Randall (174) defeated Adrian Rodriguez by fall for a 26-6 lead.

In their lone dual of the weekend, the EOU women picked up four wins by forfeit to boost the team despite going just 1-2 on the mat. The lone win in the competed matches was a 10-0 technical fall by Dempsey Talkington (155) over Warner Pacific's Kailee Doak.

The EOU men return to the mat Saturday against Embury-Riddle in Prescott, Arizona, while the women are off until Jan. 4 when they compete at the Menlo Duals in Atherton, California.

EOU track gets early start in Nampa

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A small contingent of Eastern Oregon indoor track and field athletes got a jump-start on the 2019 season at the Jackson's Open Saturday in Nampa, Idaho. Morgan Reddington turned in six-place efforts in both the women's 200-meter dash (27.59 seconds) and the women's long jump (16 feet, 7-3/4 inches). Danielle Church was third in the women's shot put (38-feet-2) and seventh in

the women's weight throw (41-feet-7-3/4). For the men, Branden Phanhaha took eighth in the men's 60 (7.32 seconds). Devin Lewis-Allen and Cooper Shaw both placed in the men's 400, with Lewis-Allen second (50.11) and Shaw sixth (51.18). Josh Wallin, meanwhile, was third in the men's 800 (2:05.89).

Eastern is off until Jan. 12 when it returns to Nampa for the Bronco Invite.

EASTERN

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of the impact he had, and this has made her want to lift her level of play.

"Even from the very beginning, coming into the program, you learned the mark he left on the program," she said. "The whole weekend I wanted to play hard, but mostly to have fun, have energy and intensity because it was a special weekend for the whole program."

Nelson set the tone Sunday with the team's first seven points and went on to score 13 of her 17 points in the second half. Maren Herrud, who added 12 points, hit a 3-pointer for a 16-6 lead

with just more than four minutes to play in the first.

LC hung around during the first half thanks to the 3-ball, shooting 50 percent. But Anji Weissenfluh said the team addressed the issue at halftime, and they limited the Pioneers to just 3-for-12 from deep in the second half.

"We made an adjustment at halftime on our perimeter defense because we wanted to keep them off the 3-point line," the coach said. "Giving up offensive boards, that was the talk at the end. I (asked) if there was a negative to take away or an opportunity to learn, and they all immediately said keeping (LC) off the offensive boards."

LC had 18 offensive rebounds for the game, 13 of which came after halftime.

It barely mattered. EOU shot 48 percent overall, was 10-for-20 from the 3-point line and had 23 assists on 31 made field goals. Emma Logan led the way with six assists.

"I was proud of how much they shared the ball. We had some pretty passes and some great backdoors," Weissenfluh said. "It was good team ball."

Beverly Slater added 11 points and eight rebounds for EOU, which had 12 players score on the night.

Eastern (7-2 overall) travels to Eugene to face Northwest Christian Saturday.

GIRLS

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girls basketball team won both its matchups at the Enterprise Winter Classic, blasting hapless Pine Eagle Friday, 58-9, and edging the Elgin Huskies Saturday, 40-35.

In the final against Elgin, Shelby Moncrief and Lexie Gasset both scored 12 points, while Carsyn Miller added 10 points. Enterprise pushed a 24-22 lead at the half to 35-27 after three quarters. Elgin closed the gap, but couldn't pull ahead.

Jocelyn Palmer had 13 points to lead the Huskies. Gracie Evans added eight points, and Tymra Anderson grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Friday, the Outlaws built a 19-2 lead at halftime, then added on in the second half to pull away for the easy win.

Moncrief and Rylin Kirkland both scored 11 points to lead Enterprise. Ashlyn Gray and Karli Bedard added 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively.

Earlier Friday, Elgin dropped a squeaker in its first game of the Classic, falling to Pilot Rock, 47-46.

Palmer scored 12 points for the Huskies. Kaelin Evans added eight and Gracie Evans record six points.

Enterprise (4-1 overall) travels to Union Tuesday, while Elgin (2-2) faces Pilot Rock again at the Rocket Invitational Friday.

EAGLES FALL IN TOURNNEY FINAL

The Joseph Eagles girls basketball team found themselves in a 16-point first-quarter hole and were unable to dig their way out as they fell for the first time this season, losing to Grant Union, 64-50, in the title game of the Columbia River Clash Saturday in Umatilla.

Joseph had just six points in the first quarter and saw



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Union's Abriel O'Reilly, right, attempts a jumper against the La Grande JV Friday.

the deficit grow to 33-15 by halftime. Sabrina Albee led Joseph with 21 points, and was one of three players in double figures. Haley Miller added 14 points, and Emma Hite scored 10 points.

Friday, Albee scored 22 points to single-handedly outdo Griswold as the Eagles rolled to a 50-17 win in the semifinals of the tournament.

Albee had 17 points by halftime, helping Joseph to a 35-7 lead at the break. Madelyn Nelson added 10 points — all in the first half — and Miller chipped in with five points.

Joseph (4-1 overall) faces Jordan Valley Friday in La Grande.

COUGARS BLAST ECHO

The Wallowa Cougars girls basketball team built a double-digit lead by halftime and coasted to a 56-35 win over Echo Friday.

Shanna Rae Tillery had 12 points and nine rebounds in the win for the Cougars, who jumped out to a 29-17 lead at the break. Ashlyn Young and Jamie Johnston both added 11 points for Wallowa.

The second day of the Wallowa Lions Tournament on Saturday was canceled, making it just one game with Echo for both teams after Huntington and Monument/Dayville dropped out.

The Cougars (2-3 overall) travel to Cove Thursday.

BADGERS ANNIHILATE RANGERS

The Powder Valley Badgers girls basketball team had their way with the Dufur Rangers Saturday, rolling to an easy 62-10 home victory.

Both Megan Bingham and Belle Blair scored 13 points to lead Powder Valley, while Logan Nedrow added eight points. Blair also had seven steals, Nedrow recorded six, and Bingham had four assists.

The Badgers put the game away almost instantly, taking a 15-1 lead after one quarter and a 31-3 margin at the break.

Powder Valley (3-0 overall) faces Union Friday in La Grande.

PANTHERS DROPTO 0-2

Despite a big night from Caysie McGinness, the Imbler Panthers girls basketball team dropped to 0-2 on the young season with a 61-29 loss to the Heppner Mustangs Saturday.

McGinness scored 20 points, but Imbler struggled to keep up with the Mustangs, falling behind 33-14 at halftime and 53-18 after three quarters.

Imbler (0-2 overall) faces Heppner again Friday, this time at home.



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